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http://macedonia.usaid.gov

PRESS RELEASE

Yahoo! features Macedonia as tourist destination

Link to U.S. supported Macedonian tourism website expected to get more than a million hits

The award winning Yahoo! Adventures (http://adventures.yahoo.com) is featuring Macedonia for the month of July. The multi-media production, a month in the making, was facilitated by ExploringMacedonia.com, Macedonia's official travel website, set up in 2005 with the support of the United States Agency for International Development, part of the U.S. Mission to Macedonia.

"Other featured destinations have been overwhelmed—in a positive way-- by the exposure resulting from being featured on Yahoo!" says Dick Goldman, USAID Mission Director. "This is great, free publicity for the country."

Yahoo! described Macedonia as "one of the world's oldest civilizations and newest nations." The multimedia production includes articles, video clips, maps and photos of Macedonian tourist destinations.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit http://macedonia.usaid.gov

The Yahoo! correspondent who led the team and features in the multi media production is Richard Bangs, an international explorer and award-winning author.

ExploringMacedonia.com enables Macedonian tourism service providers to sell services globally via the Internet. It was established through USAID's e-Biz Project which aims to stimulate employment by helping small and medium enterprises adopt high-impact information technologies. The Education Development Center (EDC) is responsible for field implementation of the e-Biz Project, through a subcontract from the Academy for Educational Development (AED). For more information visit www.ebiz.org.mk